

ENERGY TIDBITS – January 2009

Green Today, Jobs Tomorrow conference will be held on May 11 at the Lansing Center. The conference will focus on workforce and economic development for Michigan's emerging green economy. The conference is aimed at bringing together business, education and training, labor, environmental, community, and faith-based, and policy advocacy partners and stakeholders who are currently working on nurturing a green economy and talent base in Michigan. To sign up for email updates about the conference, please visit www.michigan.gov/greenjobsconference. Registration materials will be posted in early 2009.

Google.org, the philanthropic arm of the search giant, has announced a \$10.25 million investment in geothermal energy technology. The money will back two start-up companies that specialize in enhanced geothermal systems, the process of pumping water underground to crack hot rocks and use the resulting steam to create electricity.

University of Michigan is trying to make its computers green and has been spurred into action by a phone call from Google cofounder Larry Page. The campus-wide volunteer effort involves a number of initiatives designed to save hundreds of thousands of dollars. U-M has 80,000 desktop computers, half a dozen data centers and more than 100 server rooms. Teams of more than 90 U-M students, faculty and staff members are working to purchase more energy-efficient computers, reduce the number of server rooms and get everyone to turn off computers and printers when not in use.

Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association's Annual Meeting was held at the Detroit Institute of Arts on Dec. 13. Key governmental officials were recognized for their dedication to passing renewable energy standards in Michigan. Governmental Leadership Awards were presented to: State Reps. Jeff Mayes (D-Bay City) and David Palsrok (R-Manistee), Sen. Patty Birkholz (R-Saugatuck Township) and Gov. Jennifer Granholm. Other awards included: Business Leadership Award: Jeff Metts of Dowding Industries, Exemplary Project: City of Ann Arbor, Individual Commitment Award: Brion Dickens, and Appreciation Awards: Bob Pratt and Tanya Paslawski.

Governor Granholm recently announced 20 new projects getting state incentives that will create and retain 7,446 new jobs and generate more than \$2.3 billion in new investment. One project is Global Wind Systems Inc., a start-up wind turbine manufacturer, that will invest \$32.3 million to locate its first plant in Novi. The project is expected to create 807 new Michigan jobs, including 356 directly by the company. Based on the MEDC's recommendation, the MEGA board approved a state tax credit valued at about \$7.3 million over nine years to help convince the company to expand in Michigan over competing sites in Ohio, Iowa and Nebraska.

<http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-23442-205163--,00.html>

Statewide Biomass Feedstock Inventory will be conducted by Michigan State University which has been awarded a \$114,000 grant by the Michigan Dept. of Energy, Labor, & Economic Growth. The inventory will look at the type, supply, location, and energy

potential of biomass sources. This study will have the added benefit of creating an online GIS map through which businesses and others can locate the quantity of available biomass for energy production. The map will also take into account key supply constraints which increases its effectiveness as a tool in the decision making process. With additional grant funds, MSU is also carrying out a project which identifies farms and other sites with strong potential for the installation of anaerobic digesters and energy recovery systems. Both projects are scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2009. Contact: Dr. Steve Safferman, MSU (517) 432-0812 safferma@msu.edu

GET City, an after-school program funded by the National Science Foundation, provides youth between the ages of 11-15 the opportunity to investigate green energy technology at the Boys and Girls Club of Lansing. This year, youth are creating public service announcements about renewable energy and green jobs. If you are interested in coming to talk to the students about what your organization or company does to promote green energy & jobs, contact Shari Rose at levines2@msu.edu. <http://www.getcity.org>.

Michigan Uniform Energy Code (MUEC) brochure is now available at www.michigan.gov/energyoffice. Scroll down to "Energy Office News & Information" and click on the brochure link. This brochure does not explain the code in depth, but can serve as a useful tool to gain a general understanding of the compliance options. The MUEC went into effect on Oct. 24, 2008.

Zeeland Board of Public Works will be installing two 50 kW Entegriity wind turbines in Holland Charter Township's Helder Park. The units' output will be delivered directly into the municipal utility distribution system.

Wind Energy Resource Zone Board has now been created by the MPSC and the MPSC has appointed the 11 board members. The board is required to issue a report detailing its findings no later than June 2, 2009. The report will include a list of regions in the state with the highest level of wind energy potential, the estimated wind generating capacity in MW that can be installed in each region, an estimate of the annual energy production potential for each region, and an estimate of the wind generation capacity already in service in each region. Copies of the report will be submitted to local governments for comment and the Board will host public hearings.

Five Rebuild Michigan grants have been awarded to launch new community partnerships to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy use in commercial buildings. Grants were awarded to: Clean Energy Coalition (\$24,900) for Ypsilanti area; Delta Institute (\$18,910) for City of Wyandotte; Ferris State University (\$24,896) for Big Rapids & Mecosta County; Lake Superior State University (\$8,607) for Sault Ste. Marie area; and Michigan Green (\$24,900) for Livingston County. www.michigan.gov/eorebuild

Michigan Public Service Commission has issued an order establishing formats, guidelines and procedures that it will use to process, review and approve renewable energy plans and energy optimization plans submitted by electric and natural gas providers. Investor-owned electric utilities, regulated rural electric cooperatives, and

alternative electric suppliers have 90 days to file a renewable energy plan. Municipally-owned electric utilities and member-regulated electric cooperatives have 120 days to file their plans. Energy optimization plans must be filed by electric and natural gas providers except alternative electric suppliers. Rate-regulated providers of all types have 90 days to file their energy optimization plans. Member-regulated rural electric cooperatives and municipally-owned electric utilities have 120 days to file their energy optimization plans. The Commission will hold contested case hearings on all of the filings by rate-regulated utilities and will accept public comments for all other filings.

Green Lodging Michigan has certified some new facilities. Check them out.

Days Hotel Downtown (Grand Rapids) Steward

<http://www.dayshotelgrandrapids.com/>

Lakeshore Motel (Iron River) Partner

<http://www.lakeshoremotelicelake.com/>

Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites (Kalamazoo) Steward

<http://www.radissonkz.com/>

Townsend Hotel (Birmingham) Steward

<http://www.townsendhotel.com/>

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